

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Shay Mesa Phase II

Proposal Number: 1091

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: BLM

County: San Juan

Project Manager: Brian Keating

PM Phone: 4356133717

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 07/01/2008

Project Location: Shay Mesa is one of several large mesas that encompass the Indian Creek drainage at the foot of the Abajo Mountains in San Juan County, Utah.

Project Description: Phase II proposes to treat additional 1,300 acres of juniper and pinyon trees (hazardous fuels) utilizing prescribed fire, mechanical thinning techniques, and reseeding.

Description of Problem/Need: Large areas of Shay Mesa were chained and seeded in 1959. Although the 1991 San Juan Resource Area Management Plan identified maintenance of the Shay Mesa chained area, project maintenance was not conducted over the next decade due to conflicting project priorities and budget constraints. The lack of maintenance has resulted in a regenerated pinyon/juniper forest along with sections of heavy dead and down slash from the 50's chaining. This combination has created a buildup of hazardous fuels with an accompanying reduction in grass and forbs production.

Objectives: To reduce hazardous fuel loads and improve wildlife habitat on 1,500 acres by removing encroaching pinyon/juniper trees. Removing the trees will increase shrub and herbaceous production and diversity.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Shay Mesa project falls within a focus area of the UPCD for Southeastern Utah. Mule Deer is listed as Tier 3 species in the WAP

Potential Risks: Potential risks to adjacent resources of improvement would be minimal.

Proposed Methods: A total of 1,300 acres of juniper and pinyon trees will be removed during Phase II. A bullhog will treat 580 acres and will be aerial seeded before contractors begin work, 730 acres will be lop/piled. The piles will be burned to reduce the fuel loads. Two rangeland drills, provided by the BLM, will be used to drill 364 acres (DWR will provide the tractors and operators). An additional 368 acres will be seeded using ATVs and harrows.

Shapefile Name: Shay Mesa Phase II.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 12/04/2007

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Details: The BLM fuels program will utilize a series of rangeland plots and fuels transects to monitoring the effectiveness of the fuels treatments and subsequent revegetation treatments. All monitoring activities will involve quantitative and qualitative techniques and be repeated annually for the first three years following treatment. In addition, the BLM has entered into an agreement with researchers from the University of Colorado (CU) on a separate research studies. The research study through the CU aims to evaluate different types of fuels management treatments (mechanical, manual and prescribed fire) to measure their effects of soils, water quality and vegetative recovery. All research studies will result in reports which will be available for other agencies and partners.

Cons. Outreach Details:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Elk

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	1312
Total	1312

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$133,940.00		\$0.00
BLM FLR	\$600,900.00		\$0.00
Habitat Acct 174	\$30,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$764,840.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

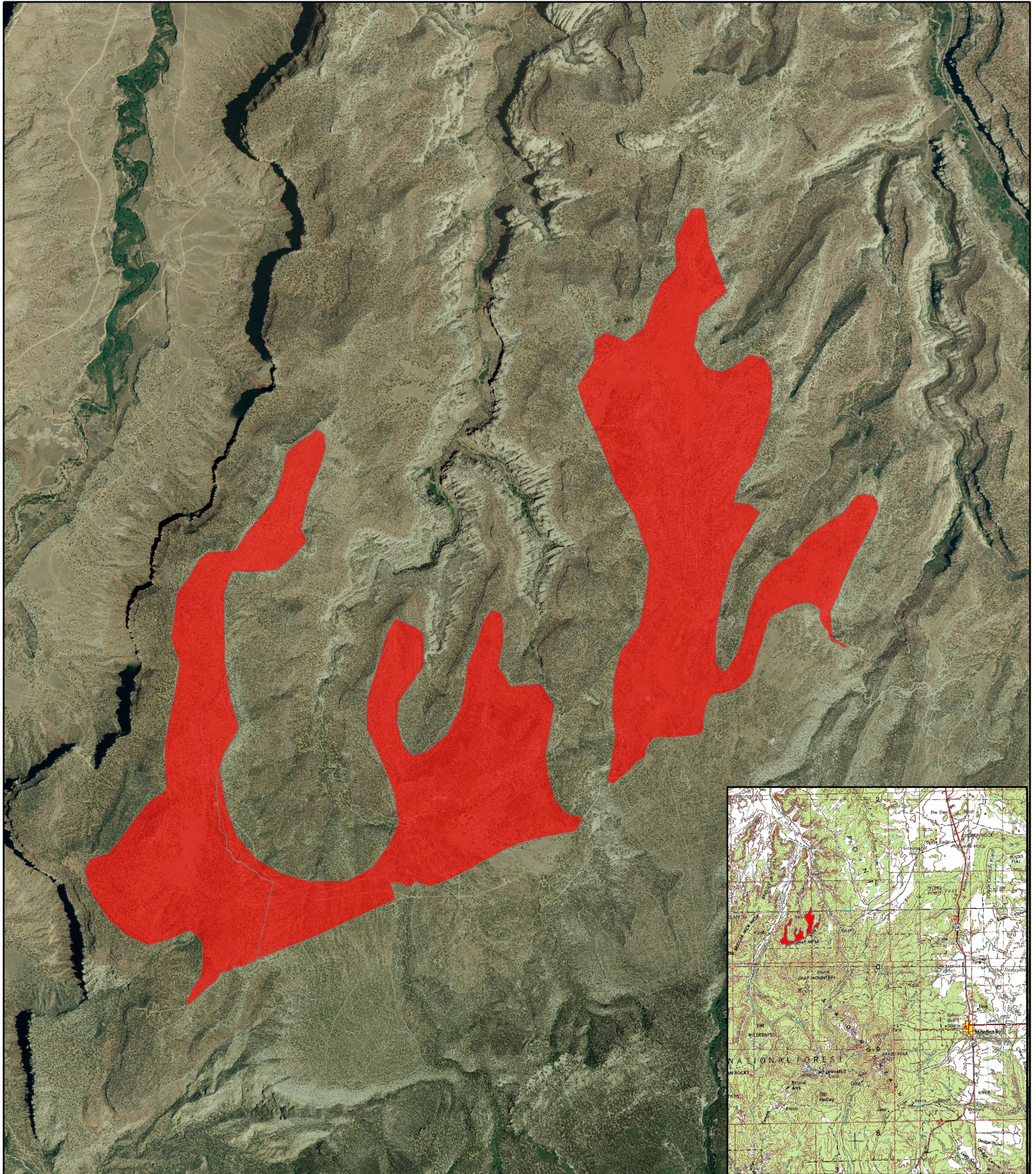
Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	1300 acres @ \$100/acre	\$131,500.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Aerial seed 500 acres @ \$12/ac	\$6,960.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	drill 364 acres @ \$70/acre (2 dozers & operators)	\$25,480.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	500 ac thin and pile	\$0.00	\$277,500.00
Contractual Services	500 ac lop & scatter	\$0.00	\$87,500.00
Contractual Services	500 ac bullhog	\$0.00	\$162,500.00
Personal Services	771 ac pile burn and 500 ac broadcast burn	\$0.00	\$73,300.00
	Totals	\$163,940.00	\$600,800.00

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	100
Total	100.00%

Project Map:

Shay Mesa Phase II



0.6 0.3 0 0.6 Miles

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